Bridgewater June 1874

Hon. Solomon Lincoln

My dear old friend

I assure you I was very much gratified by the receipt of your kind letter. It revived recollections of a life long intimate cordial & friendly intercourse which to me had been a source of much enjoyment & happiness and I desire to express my thanks for many favors received in by gone times.

Your letter found me in the hands of the doctor, suffering from the effects of a severe case of Influenza. I had got through the winter, exposing myself to all kinds of weather, without any inconvenience but in one of those warm summer days a few weeks since I

took a severe cold which
terminated in the most severe
illness I ever experienced - I am happy
now to state that I have so far
recovered as to call myself quite well,
but altho' I call myself well, I have
not the physical strength or mental
energy of formerly.

With the aid of two daily
newspapers I endeavor to keep
myself posted up with the current
events of the time, but to unravel
the tangled skein of politics into
which the country is now involved
requires something more than
the sagacity of a nonogenarian

The present condition
of affairs at Washington is far from
re-assuring whatever [illegible] the specimen
we have had of the present Congress
precludes the hope of any im-
provement from that - Their whole

aim and efforts are to adopt measures by which to obtain a majority at the election in 1880

It is very fortunate that the Executive department is in so safe hands - The President, whatever mistakes he may have made, is entitled to great credit for his firmness in resisting the efforts of Congress to compel him to approve measures he disapproves -

But it is time for me to give up politics.

I am glad to know that you have so far regained your health as to be able to enjoy so much, as I know you must from your friends & especially from your sons who are sustaining such respectable positions in society

I hope to receive

Hon. Artemas Hale.

June 24th '79

another letter from you
soon. With renewed assurance
of my sincere regard & esteem
I am as ever Your old teacher
& friend Artemas Hale

In answer to your enquiries
Deborah died July 18. 1877
Artemas married Harriet
Howard daughter of John E Howard
His daughters are
Caroline Augusta born Feby
18th 1850
Ellen L. July 16th 1852
She was married Oct 27. 1877
to George M. Clement